

**DATE:** September 4, 2009

**TO:** All Local Health Departments  
Attn: Chief Food Inspection Officer

**FROM:** A. Scott Gilliam, MBA, CP-FS  
Manager, Food Protection Program

**SUBJECT:** PREMIER ORGANICS Recall

**SUGGESTED**

**ACTION:** Unclassified Recall; Artisana Raw Tahini of Lot 90811, in 16oz glass jars  
because it has the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella;  
Recommend notification of affected stores via phone, fax or e-mail.

From the information provided by FDA, the product being recalled was distributed in the State of Indiana. The affected lot (lot number 90811) has been distributed nationwide through retail locations and online stores. No other lots have been affected. Detail information is not available at this time. In addition, if any recalled product is found, please notify this office at 317-233-7360.

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**Recall -- Firm Press Release**

FDA posts press releases and other notices of recalls and market withdrawals from the firms involved as a service to consumers, the media, and other interested parties. FDA does not endorse either the product or the company.

**PREMIER ORGANICS Issues Nation Wide Recall For ARTISANA RAW  
TAHINI Because of Possible Health Risk**

**Contact:**

Tristan D. Bertheaud  
(866) 237-8688 x 212

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** -- September 4, 2009 -- Premier Organics of Berkeley, CA is recalling 840 Cases of Artisanas Raw Tahini of Lot 90811, in 16oz glass jars because it has the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella, an organism which can cause serious infections. Healthy persons infected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with Salmonella can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections, endocarditis and arthritis.

The affected lot (lot number 90811) has been distributed nationwide through retail locations and online stores. No other lots have been affected.

It is important to note that there have been NO REPORTED ILLNESSES to date.

Of the numerous samples taken by both Premier Organics and the FDA of lot 90811, only one sample came back positive for salmonella. Premier Organics has ceased distribution of Artisanas Tahini lot 90811 as they continue their investigation with the FDA into what caused the problem.

Consumers who have purchased Artisanas Tahini with lot number 90811 are urged not to consume the product and return it to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact Premier Organics at 1-866-237-8688 between the hours of 9am and 4pm Pacific Standard Time.

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